

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled) A decorative laminate panel comprising:

opposing first and second extruded sheets formed together; and

one or more compressible three-dimensional objects positioned between the opposing first and second extruded sheets in a substantially natural conformation;

wherein a corresponding natural cross-sectional diameter of the one or more compressible three-dimensional objects is substantially maintained when the opposing first and second extruded sheets are formed together.

2. (Currently Amended) The panel as recited in claim 40, ~~claim 1~~, wherein the first and second extruded sheets are at least partially translucent.

3. (Currently Amended) The panel as recited in claim 40, ~~claim 1~~, wherein the decorative laminate panel has a thickness of between 0.25 and 2 inches.

4. (Currently Amended) The panel as recited in claim 40, ~~claim 1~~, wherein at least one of the first and second extruded sheets comprise extruded PETG having a thickness of between 0.1 inches and 0.50 inches.

5. (Currently Amended) The panel as recited in claim 40, ~~claim 1~~, wherein at least one of the first and second extruded sheets comprise extruded polycarbonate having a thickness of between 0.1 inches and 0.50 inches.

6. (Currently Amended) The panel as recited in claim 40, ~~claim 1~~, wherein at least one of the first and second extruded sheets has a width and length dimensions of approximately 3' x 5', approximately 4' x 8', or approximately 5' x 10'.

7. (Currently Amended) The panel as recited in claim 40, ~~claim 1~~, wherein at least one of the first and second extruded sheets comprises a copolyester that has a melting point between 180° F and 230° F in a pressure range of up to 40 psi.

8. (Currently Amended) The panel as recited in claim 40, claim 1, wherein the one or more compressible objects comprise any one or more of ~~are at least one of~~ thatch, willow reed, bamboo, beans, straw, a tree branch, a tree twig, a bush branch, a bush twig, or any other object having a natural diameter that is substantially compressed at a critical pressure between about 10 psi and about 100 psi.

9. (Currently Amended) The panel as recited in claim 40, claim 1, wherein a viewable surface of the decorative laminate panel is substantially uniform from one end to the next such that no lakes or air bubbles are exposed.

10. (Currently Amended) The panel as recited in claim 40, claim 1, wherein the ~~one or more compressible objects ordinarily deform to an unnatural conformation at a critical pressure of less than~~ is less than about 92 psi for the one or more compressible objects.

11. (Previously Amended) The panel as recited in claim 10, wherein the critical pressure is greater than about 10 psi, such that the one or more compressible three-dimensional objects ordinarily appear to have an unnatural conformation when subjected to the critical pressure of between about 10 psi and 92 psi.

12. (Original) The panel as recited in claim 10, wherein the unnatural appearance comprises a substantially flattened appearance for the one or more compressible three-dimensional objects when viewed through the first or second extruded sheet.

13. (Cancelled) A process of embedding compressible objects within a decorative laminate panel comprising:

softening a laminate assembly at a first pressure and temperature such that first and second extruded sheets surrounding compressible objects do not crush the compressible objects in a first step;

further softening the laminate assembly at a second pressure and temperature such that the compressible objects become enveloped by the first and second extruded sheets without being crushed in a second step; and

pressing the laminate assembly at a third pressure and temperature.

14. (Cancelled) The process as recited in claim 13, wherein the first pressure and temperature comprise a pressure of up to 10 psi and a temperature of up to 300° F.

15. (Cancelled) The process as recited in claim 13, wherein the second pressure and temperature comprise a pressure of up to 40 psi and a temperature of up to 350° F.

16. (Cancelled) The process as recited in claim 13, wherein the third pressure and temperature comprise a pressure of up to 92 psi and a temperature of up to 360° F.

17. (Cancelled) The process as recited in claim 13, wherein the first pressure and temperature comprise a pressure of up to 10 psi and a temperature of up to 180° F.

18. (Cancelled) The process as recited in claim 13, wherein the second pressure and temperature comprise a pressure of up to 40 psi and a temperature of up to 230° F.

19. (Cancelled) The process as recited in claim 13, wherein the third pressure and temperature comprise a pressure of up to 92 psi and a temperature of up to 240° F.

20. (Cancelled) The process as recited in claim 13, further comprising cooling the laminate assembly such that the decorative laminate panel comprises compressible objects in a substantially natural conformation.

21. (Cancelled) The process as recited in claim 13, wherein cooling the laminate assembly comprises maintaining a pressure of up to 92 psi while reducing the temperature to as low as 70° F.

22. (Cancelled) The process as recited in claim 13, further comprising identifying one or more imperfections viewable from a surface of the decorative laminate panel, and repeating the process such that the imperfections can not be identified.

23. (Cancelled) The process as recited in claim 13, further comprising arranging the compressible objects between the first and second laminate panels such that air can escape between the compressible objects when the first and second laminate panels are pressed.

24. (Cancelled) The process as recited in claim 13, wherein at least one of the first and second extruded sheets is one of transparent, translucent, and opaque material.

25. (Cancelled) The process as recited in claim 13, wherein the decorative laminate panel has a thickness of between 0.25 and 2 inches.

26. (Cancelled) The process as recited in claim 13, wherein at least one of the first and second extruded sheets comprise extruded PETG having a thickness of between 0.1 inches and 0.5 inches.

27. (Cancelled) The process as recited in claim 13, wherein at least one of the first and second extruded sheets comprise extruded polycarbonate having a thickness of between 0.1 inches and 0.5 inches.

28. (Cancelled) The process as recited in claim 13, wherein at least one of the first and second extruded sheets has a width and length dimensions of approximately 3' x 5', approximately 4' x 8', or approximately 5' x 10'.

29. (Cancelled) The process as recited in claim 13, wherein at least one of the first and second extruded sheets comprises a copolyester that has a melting point between 180° F and 230° F in a pressure range of up to 40 psi.

30. (Cancelled) The process as recited in claim 13, wherein the compressible objects are at least one of thatch, willow reed, bamboo, beans, straw, a tree branch, a tree twig, a bush branch, and a bush twig.

31. (Cancelled) The process as recited in claim 13, wherein the one or more compressible objects substantially deform at a critical pressure of less than 92 psi, such that the one or more compressible objects are viewed as having a flattened appearance at the critical pressure.

32. (Cancelled) A process of embedding compressible objects within a decorative laminate panel comprising the steps of:

arranging compressible objects between first and second extruded sheets of a laminate assembly such that air can escape between the compressible objects when the first and second extruded sheets are pressed; and

forming the decorative laminate panel about the compressible objects at an appropriate pressure and temperature such that the compressible objects maintain a substantially natural form when the decorative laminate panel has hardened.

33. (Cancelled) The process as recited in claim 32, wherein the step of forming the decorative laminate panel comprises:

softening the laminate assembly at the first pressure and temperature such that first and second extruded sheets surrounding compressible objects do not crush the compressible objects in a first step;

further softening the laminate assembly at a second pressure and temperature such that the compressible objects become enveloped by the first and second extruded sheets without being crushed in a second step; and

pressing the laminate assembly at a third pressure and temperature.

34. (Currently Amended) A laminate sheet assembly configured to create the decorative architectural panel recited in claim 40 when the laminate assembly is subjected to the plurality of pressures in the thermosetting for use in a thermosetting process comprising:

a the first extruded sheet;

the one or more three-dimensional objects arranged on the first extruded sheet;

and

a the second extruded sheet positioned about the one or more embedded objects;

wherein the one or more three-dimensional objects are arranged in a position between the first and second extruded sheet such that sufficient air escapes from between the embedded objects as pressure is increased, such that lakes or air bubbles are avoided when the first extruded sheet and second extruded sheet are formed together.

35. (Previously Presented) The laminate sheet assembly as recited in claim 34, further comprising a pressure pad positioned about one of the first and second extruded sheets.

36. (Previously Presented) The laminate sheet assembly as recited in claim 34, wherein the first and second extruded sheets comprise PETG.

37. (Previously Presented) The laminate sheet assembly as recited in claim 34, wherein the first and second extruded sheets comprise polycarbonate.

38. (Currently Amended) A decorative architectural resin panel comprising:

first and second extruded resin sheets formed together with ~~one or more~~ a plurality of pressures, at least one of the ~~one or more~~ plurality of pressures being equal to or greater than a critical pressure at which one or more three-dimensional objects ordinarily collapse to a substantially unnatural conformation; and

an image layer positioned between the first and second extruded sheets that are formed together, the image layer comprising the one or more three-dimensional objects in a substantially natural conformation;

wherein the one or more three-dimensional objects of the image layer maintain an appearance of the substantially natural conformation despite having been subjected to the critical pressure.

39. (Cancelled) A decorative architectural panel comprising:

one or more visible image layers that include one of thatch reed or coffee beans;

and

corresponding at least first and second extruded resin sheets formed together about each of the one or more image layers, such that the one of thatch reed or coffee beans maintains a substantially natural cross-section that can be seen through any of a cross-sectional or surface view of the decorative architectural panel.

40. (New) A decorative architectural panel comprising:

one or more compressible objects suspended between two extruded resin sheets formed together about the one or more compressible objects using a plurality of pressures in a thermosetting process, at least one of the plurality of pressures being greater than or equal to a critical pressure sufficient to otherwise compress the one or more compressible objects to an unnatural appearing conformation;

wherein the one or more compressible objects maintain a substantially natural appearing conformation between the two formed resin sheets.

41. (New) The decorative architectural panel as recited in claim 40, wherein the one or more compressible objects comprise thatch or willow reed.

42. (New) The decorative architectural panel as recited in claim 40, wherein the one or more compressible objects comprise bamboo.